

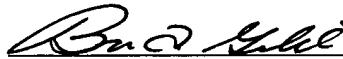


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No: 10/017,445 Confirmation No. 6377
 Date Filed: December 14, 2001
 Application Title: Methods For Determining Organisms Not Requiring The Separation of Fixative Or Excess Probe
 Applicants: Rigby et al.
 Group Art Unit: 1634
 Examiner: Sally A. Sakelaris
 Express Mail No: ET 925898235 US

Certificate of Mailing Pursuant to:
37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. ET 925898235 US in an Express Mail envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 16th day of November, 2004.



Brian D. Gildea
Reg. No. 39,995

Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents
Dear Sir or Madam:

Applicants hereby petition for an automatic five-month extension of time to file a Brief On Appeal to the Office Action mailed on November 19, 2003 as provided for by 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). The Notice of Appeal was timely filed on April 30, 2004 and the Appeal Brief was therefore due on June 30, 2004. With this five-month extension, the due date for the Appeal Brief should be November 30, 2003. The Office is hereby authorized to deduct the fee set forth under 37 CFR § 1.17 for a five-month extension for a large entity, believed to be \$ 2,080.00, from Deposit Account No. 02-3240.



Brian D. Gildea
Reg. No. 39,995